

Please amend the Claims as follows:

Claim 1. (original) In an aircraft powered by a gas turbine engine containing an igniter which is fed by a power cable which is surrounded by a conductive shield connected to a system ground, a method comprising:

- a) detecting current pulses in the shield; and
- b) in response to detected current pulses, issuing to a pilot station in the aircraft a signal indicating presence of spark in the igniter.

Claim 2. (currently amended) ~~In an aircraft powered by a gas turbine engine containing an igniter which is fed by a power cable,~~ Method according to claim 1, further including said igniter and power cable being surrounded by conductive shielding, a the method further comprising:

- a) maintaining a coil outside the shielding; and
- b) the detecting current pulses includes detecting induced current in the coil; ~~and~~
- e) ~~in response to detected current pulses, issuing to a pilot station in the aircraft a signal indicating presence of spark in the igniter.~~

Claim 3. (original) Method according to claim 2, wherein no components involved in detecting the current pulses penetrate the conductive shielding.

Claim 4. (original) Method according to claim 2, wherein the current pulses have a duration D and a frequency F, and wherein detecting the current pulses comprises:

- i) maintaining a series RLC circuit, comprising inductor L,

resistor R, and capacitor C, wherein

- A) the inductor L comprises the coil, and
- B) the RLC circuit amplifies signals induced by the pulses.

Claim 5. (original) Method according to claim 2, wherein (1) the current pulses generate voltage pulses in the coil, (2) the coil has an inductance L, and (3) detecting the current pulses comprises:

- i) connecting the coil to a circuit containing a resistance R and a capacitance C; and
- ii) using a value of capacitance C which causes amplification of the voltage pulses.

Claim 6. (original) Method according to claim 5, wherein the amplification of the voltage pulses causes a voltage signal to appear across the capacitance C which is greater than voltage appearing across the coil in the absence of the circuit.

Claim 7. (original) In an aircraft powered by a gas turbine engine containing an igniter which is fed by a power cable which is surrounded by a conductive shield connected to a system ground, a apparatus comprising:

- a) a detector for detecting current pulses in the shield;  
and
- b) an annunciator for issuing a signal indicating presence of spark in the igniter to a pilot station in the aircraft.

Claim 8. (original) Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the signal is issued based on the current pulses.

Claim 9. (original) In an aircraft powered by a gas turbine engine containing an igniter which is fed by a power cable, said igniter and power cable being surrounded by conductive shielding, apparatus comprising:

- a) a coil outside the shielding;
- b) a detector for detecting current pulses in the coil;  
and
- c) an annunciator for issuing a signal indicating presence of spark in the igniter to a pilot station in the aircraft, in response to detected current pulses.

Claim 10. (original) Apparatus according to claim 9, wherein no components involved in detecting the current pulses penetrates the conductive shielding.

Claim 11. (original) Apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the current pulses have a duration  $D$  and a frequency  $F$ , and further comprising:

- i) a series RLC circuit, comprising inductor  $L$ , resistor  $R$ , and capacitor  $C$ , wherein
  - A) the inductor  $L$  comprises the coil, and
  - B) the RLC circuit is resonant at a steady-state sinusoidal frequency  $F(\text{res})$ , wherein  $F(\text{res})$  lies within the range  $(0.8)(1/D)$  to  $(1.2)(1/D)$ .

Claim 12. (original) Apparatus according to claim 9, wherein  
(1) the current pulses generate voltage pulses in the coil,  
(2) the coil has an inductance  $L$ , and further comprising:

- i) a connection between the coil and a circuit containing a resistance  $R$  and a capacitance  $C$ , wherein the value of capacitance  $C$  which causes amplification of the voltage

pulses.

Claim 13. (original) Apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the amplification of the voltage pulses causes a voltage signal to appear across the capacitance C which is greater than voltage appearing across the coil in the absence of the circuit.

Claim 14. (original) Method of starting a gas turbine engine, comprising:

- a) causing the engine to rotate;
- b) delivering fuel to a combustor in the engine;
- c) actuating an igniter to ignite the fuel; and
- d) if ignition fails to occur,
  - i) examining an indicator which produces a signal when the igniter produces spark and
  - ii) if no signal is detected, taking a predetermined action A.

Claim 15. (original) Method according to claim 14, wherein the predetermined action A comprises requesting diagnosis of an ignition system in the engine.

Claim 16. (original) Method according to claim 14, and further comprising:

- iii) if a spark signal is detected after ignition fails to occur, taking a predetermined action B.

Claim 17. (original) Method according to claim 16, wherein the predetermined action B does not include examining an igniter, or replacing an igniter.

Claim 18. (original) Method according to claim 14, wherein the engine is located in an aircraft, and the indicator is located at a pilot station in the aircraft.

Claim 19. (original) A method of operating a gas turbine engine which powers an aircraft, comprising:

- a) maintaining an igniter which is
  - i) surrounded by a housing, and
  - ii) fed by a power cable which is surrounded by a conductive shield which is connected to the housing; and
- b) detecting current in the shield, housing, power cable, or a combination thereof, but without electrically contacting the power cable, and, in response to detected current, actuating an annunciator at a pilot station in the aircraft, informing the pilot of the detected spark.

Claim 20. (original) Method according to claim 19, wherein the process of detecting current comprises:

- c) maintaining a coil adjacent the shield;
- d) inducing currents in the coil by currents in the shield;
- e) detecting induced currents in the coil; and
- f) issuing the signal in response to detection of the induced current.

1. The Examiner's Restriction Requirement is hereby acknowledged and the Applicants makes a provisional election with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, Claims 1-13 drawn to a method of detecting current pulses in an igniter system. The Applicants have amended Claim 2 to depend from Claim 1 thus negating the need to make a further provisional election with traverse to prosecute the Species (A) or (B). Group 1 Claims include detecting current pulses in the shield. This Office Action Response includes cancellation of the non-elected Claims as required by the Examiner.

The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's conclusion that each one of the inventions recited in Groups I, II and III is separately usable in a system not having the other. The inventions are all methods that include examining an indicator which produces a signal when the igniter produces spark including detecting current pulses in an igniter system of a gas turbine engine and, as such, should be examined together.

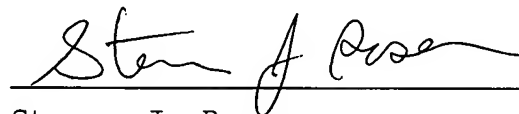
The Examiner's choice of different classifications is arbitrary and is not a proper reason for issuing the restriction for examination purposes. The Examiner's conclusion that because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given in the Office Action and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper. To one skilled in the art, all the Claims are sufficiently related as being methods including examining an indicator which produces a signal when the igniter produces spark which includes detecting current pulses in an igniter system of a gas turbine engine and thus should

ATTY DOCKET NO.  
13-DV-132639B

DOC. ID  
132639B

be examined together. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's Restriction Requirement has been traversed for the reasons stated above and that the Restriction Requirement should be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Steven J. Rosen", written over a horizontal line.

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January 19, 2007

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